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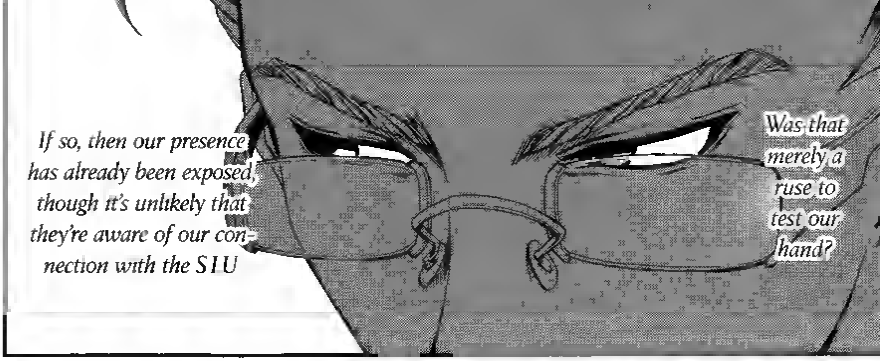
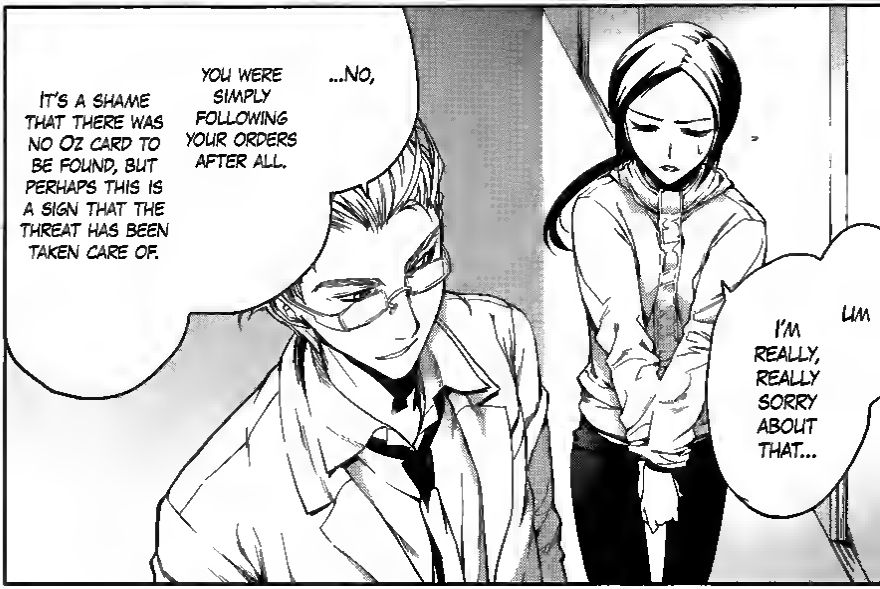
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE!?
FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, THERE'S NO WAY TO TELL IF IT'S DUE TO TAMPERING BY THE HACKERS YESTERDAY
OR IF THE CLUB IS KEEPING SOMETHING FROM US.
REGARDLESS, AT THIS POINT WE CANNOT RELY ON THE SECURITY CLUB ANY FURTHER.
.....!
ON THE OTHER HAND, HAD YOU ACTIVATED YOUR RECORDING DEVICE OR EVEN BROUGHT BACK SOME SAMPLES TO EXAMINE, PERHAPS WE WOULD STILL HAVE A LEAD TO WORK WITH...
S-SORRY...

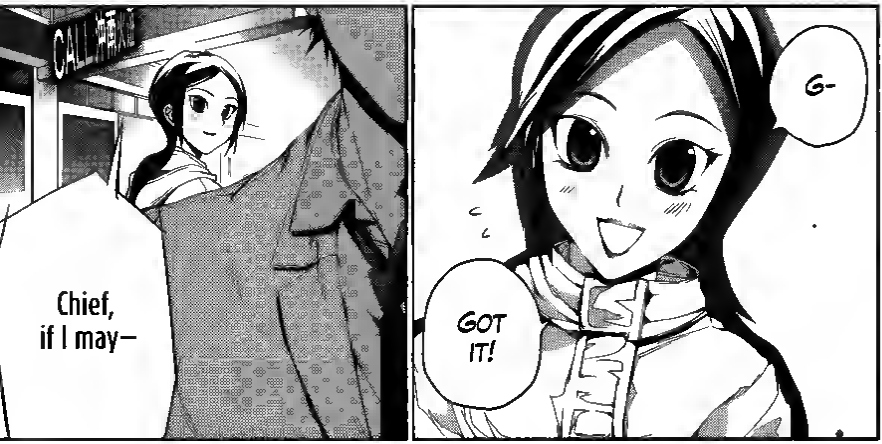
ISBN: 978-4-8401-2930-5

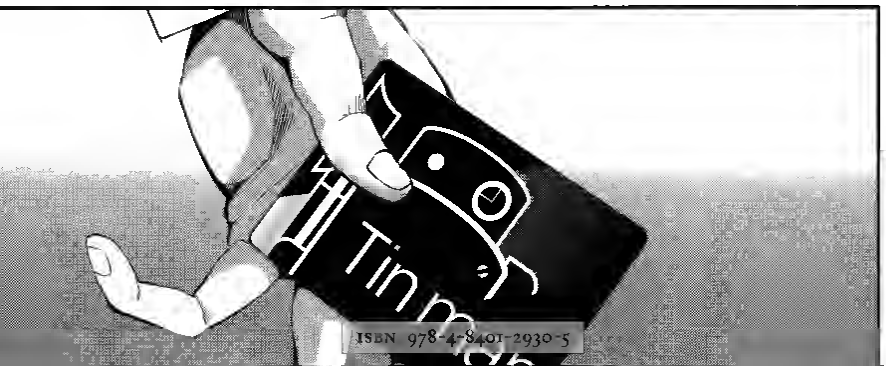

If so, then our presence has already been exposed, though it's unlikely that they're aware of our connection with the SIU
Was that merely a ruse to test our hand?


IT'S A SHAME THAT THERE WAS NO OZ CARD TO BE FOUND, BUT PERHAPS THIS IS A SIGN THAT THE THREAT HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.
YOU WERE SIMPLY FOLLOWING YOUR ORDERS AFTER ALL.
...NO,
UM
I'M REALLY, REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT...

ISBN: 978-4-8401-2930-5

CALL神原火雀
Wait, what the what!?
Okay, change of plans.
You see anything suspicious, alert me first.
Hiasobi-kun. You're really terrible with the ladies, aren't you?





ISBN 978-4-8401-2930-5

The numbers didn't change... so whether that thing really was an Oz user remains inconclusive...
...UNDERSTOOD.
SAVE IT. YOU STICK TO YOUR ORIGINAL ASSIGNMENT.
FINE, I'LL BITE! SO WHAT IS IT?
But it's about the chief...
.....
CALL 沖南火遊
Uhm, Wang-san, do you have a moment?
CALL 沖南火遊
...SORRY, I REALLY DON'T FEEL LIKE TALKING RIGHT NOW.
Don't you think he's been a bit odd lately?
EXCUSE ME?

ISBN: 978-4-8401-2030-5

Well, sure...
Stress is just a part of the job.
Maybe you haven't noticed, but he's been assigned a case with some serious implications for Gaia's very existence.
Whoa!
I-I-I'm just sayin', sometimes the chief looks really tired! And stressed!
Watch your mouth, or don't blame me when I punch your teeth out.
But don't you think he's trying too hard?
I mean, I was just talking to the riot squad...
How can we not support him at a time like this!?
Everyone's guessing that he has some special r—

ISBN: 978-4-8401-2930-5

HE HAS NEVER BEEN WRONG WITH HIS HUNCHES TO DATE AND THAT'S NOT ABOUT TO CHANGE!
THINK ABOUT IT! RIGHT NOW, WITH THE TOP BRASS QUESTIONING HIS EVERY JUDGMENT, HOW CAN WE AS SUBORDINATES TURN AGAINST HIM TOO!?
ACK, WANG-SAN, C-C-CALM DOWN...
DID YOU FORGET ABOUT THAT!?
THE FACT THAT I — WE — CAN LIVE HONEST LIVES NOW IS ALL THANKS TO HIM!
ISBN: 978-4-8401-6330-5

ISBN-978-4-08-791930-5

WHY DIDN'T IT GET ANY-THING!?
IT WAS TAMPERED WITH ALL RIGHT.
HUH?
WHEN THE SYSTEM WAS COMPROMISED YESTERDAY, THE BACKUPS WEREN'T THE ONLY THING THAT SUFFERED CORRUPTION.
OUR ENTIRE SYSTEM WAS REPLACED WITH ANOTHER, IDEN-TICAL IN EVERY RESPECT, SAVE FOR A SINGLE DIFFERENCE...
H-HOW... I'LL FIX THIS RIGHT AWAY!
THAT'LL TAKE TOO LONG.
DID THE POLICE IN-VESTIGATORS MESS WITH THE FOOT-AGE?
EVERYTHING LOOKED FINE, BUT THEN IT JUST SKIPS OVER TO THE SCENE OF THE AFTER-MATH!

ISBN 978-4-8401-2930-5

!?
JUST LEAVE IT AS IT IS. IT'S OKAY.
I'M SURE THE HACKER FIGURED OUT THAT WE'D NOTICE THE BACKDOOR SOONER OR LATER.
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THAT THEY'VE SNUCK BACK IN ALREADY
HIDING IN A PLACE THAT WE WOULDN'T NOTICE EVEN IF WE LEARNED ABOUT THE SECURITY HOLE.
WHAT WE SHOULD DO NOW IS TO GO AFTER EVERY LAST ONE OF THE CAMERAS BLIND SPOTS.

ISBN: 978-4-08-201-2030-3

People who'd have access to that kind of high-end programs tend to be from the government.
Whoever sprang the ambush was hiding behind a cloaking device.
There's no way to tell if that explosion was the puppet-master's doing.
Would you care to tell me who's my new friend here?
But government agents, here...?
Yeah, so uhh, before that...

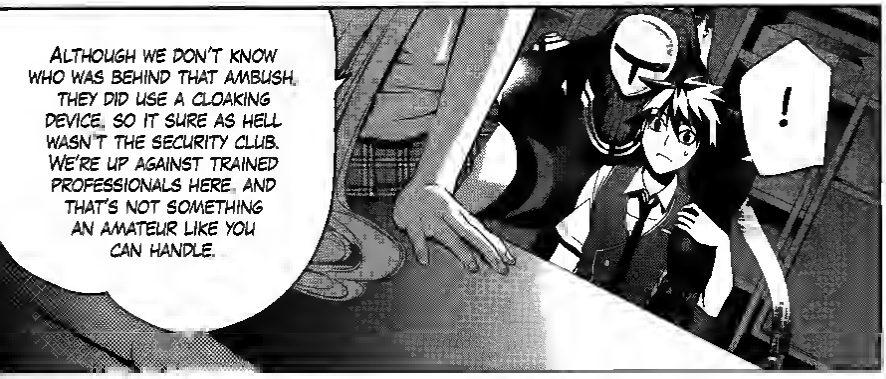
ISBN 978-4-8401-2930-5

WAIT... THE MONSTER EVERYONE'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT...
Uhm, I think the word you want here is "creepy"
SO? WHADDYA THINK? ISN'T IT AWESOME?
GAHHH!! OWW OWW OWWWW STOP IT STOP IT MAKE IT STOP
CHECK IT OUT!
OH YEAH! I CODED IN A REMOTE CONTROL MODE! AND THERE'S AUTO-PILOT TOO!
YES! WEAR IT INTO BATTLE!
THIS WAY, YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR IDENTITY BEING EXPOSED!
F-FOR ME?
TCH, I MADE THIS SPECIALLY FOR YOU AND THAT'S THE KIND OF THANKS I GET?

ISBN 978-4-8401-2930-5

You want me to wear this? Is this a joke?
The program I just uploaded to your card lets you take it on and off with a single command.
I also fudged with the campus security cameras so that they'll switch off whenever this suit comes into view, so relax!
I had it run around the place to test some stuff, but that cloaker did take me by surprise...
If you were inside back there, you'd be a goner now!
Ah-ha ha-ha
.....
Seriously now though. Do I *really* have to wear this...?

ISBN: 978-[illegible]401-2930-5


ALTHOUGH WE DON'T KNOW WHO WAS BEHIND THAT AMBUSH, THEY DID USE A CLOAKING DEVICE. SO IT SURE AS HELL WASN'T THE SECURITY CLUB. WE'RE UP AGAINST TRAINED PROFESSIONALS HERE, AND THAT'S NOT SOMETHING AN AMATEUR LIKE YOU CAN HANDLE.
!

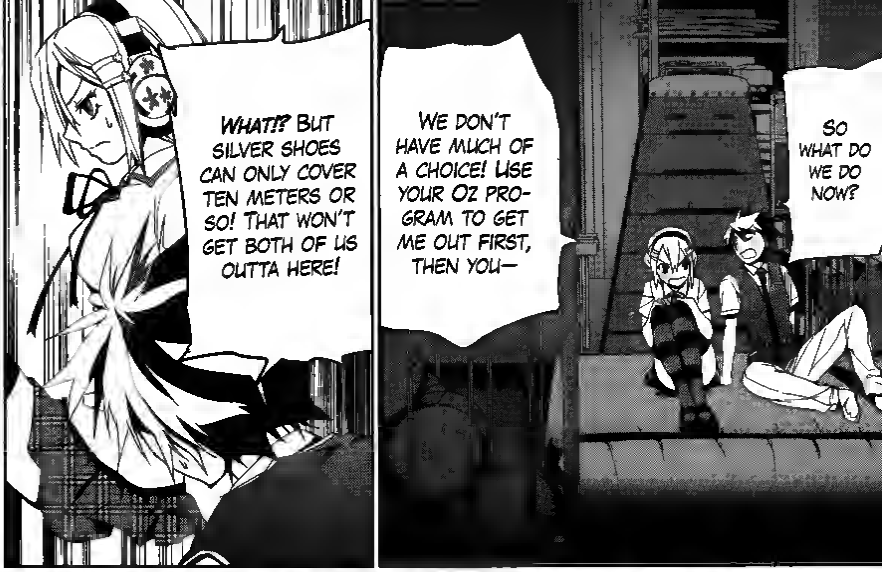
WHOEVER THAT WAS, ARE THEY AFTER OZ TOO...?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THEY ARE MUCH LESS, WHAT THEY'RE AFTER. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL AROUND THESE PARTS.
SO JUST PUT DAMN THING ON WHEN YOU'RE IN A POSITION WHERE YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO USE YOUR SILVER S—
=DING=
危

ISBN 978-4-8401-2930-5

WHAT'S WRONG?
...NOT GOOD.
WE'VE GOT COMPANY... FROM THE SECURITY CLUB.
WAIT, NO! THEIR PLAN IS TO HIT ALL THE PLACES WITHOUT SECURITY CAMERAS!
HOW DO THEY EVEN KNOW I'M HERE...?
!?
GET— DAMMIT!

ISBN 978-4-8401-2930-1

ISBN. 97[illegible]-4-6401-2030-5


SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE! USE YOUR OZ PROGRAM TO GET ME OUT FIRST, THEN YOU—
WHAT!? BUT SILVER SHOES CAN ONLY COVER TEN METERS OR SO! THAT WON'T GET BOTH OF US OUTTA HERE!

ISBN: 978-4-8401-2930-5

Uh... what about me?
It, err, it'll be fine! I've already thought this all through!
.....
Wh-wh-what's the matter?
.....
D-don't get me wrong! I wasn't gonna ditch you or anything!
ISBN 978-4-8401-4930-5

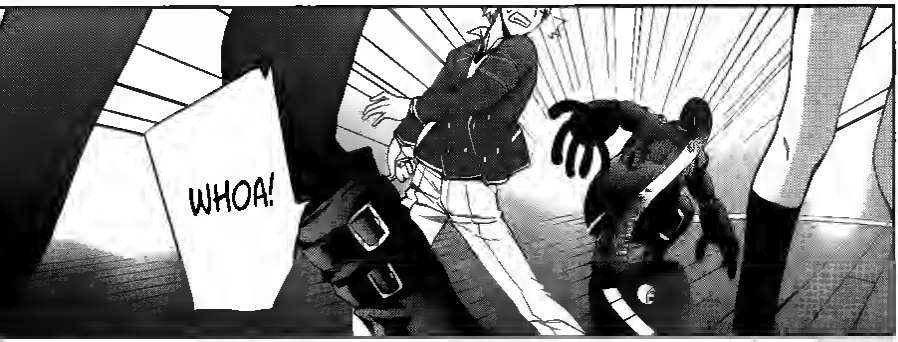
ISBN: 978-4-8401-2930-5

ISBN: 978-4-7401-2930-5

ISBN: 978-1-8401-2930-5

It's lighter than it looks... and much more nimble than I imagined it, too.
WAHH!!
THERE'S SOMEONE INSIDE!

WHY WOULD HE GO SO FAR TO PUT HIS NECK ON THE LINE LIKE THAT FOR SOMEONE WHO JUST WANTS TO GET A CARD BACK...?
run program: SilverSho
cost: 10 0z
jackpot: 495000→495010
...WHAT AN IDIOT.
This is bad! This is really bad!
ISBN 978-4-8401-2930-5



ISBN: 978-4-8401-2930-5

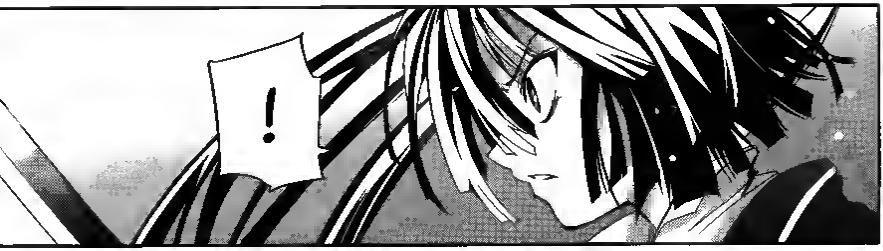
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS THING!?
OVER THERE! IT'S OVER THERE NOW!
If I'm limited to ten meters only, it doesn't matter where I jump... I still can't escape their reach... Isn't there any way I could jump a bit farther!?
GEH...!
run program: Silver Shoes
cost: 10 Oz
jackpot: 495020→495030

ISBN: 978-4-8401-2930-5

How could an avatar possibly teleport around!? Distorting space is not possible in GAIA by design!
This can't be!
run program: Silver Shoes
cost: 10 Oz
jackpot: 495030→495040
DON'T LET IT GET AWAY!

ISBN: 978-4-6401-2930-5

ISBN: 978-4-8401-2930-5



ISBN: 978-4-401-2030-5

Tick Tack
Pi Pi
Oz program activity—!!
Has the prey learned about that feature already...?
And to boot, there were several hits within a three-second interval...

ISBN: 978-4-8401-2930-5

run program: Silver Shoes
cost: 10 02 4combo! effect boost
jackpot 495030→495040
WAAA AAAAAA AAAAAH HHHHH HHH!!!
W-Wait a minute, isn't this the west campus area? It should be more than ten meters from the gym...

ISBN: 978-4-8401-2930-6

ISBN: 978-4-8401-2930-5

OZ —オズ—

岩井恭平 & 刻夜セイゴ

VOLUME THREE * CHAPTER TEN

Re "masking program" vs. "cloaking device"

I was not sleep-deprived when I came up with the latter.

In other news, retouching and art reconstruction by Nase, etc